



## Alaska Health Care Commission

# Fostering the Use of Telehealth for Increasing Access to Care, Improving Health Outcomes, and Containing Costs: Session Plan

### **Background on the Commission**

The Alaska Health Care Commission was established in state law during 2010 to advise the Governor and State Legislature on policies for improving health care quality, cost and access. Member composition is designated in statute, and includes representation from the health care provider and insurance industry as well as the business community and consumers. Members are appointed by the Governor. The Commission's focus is on health care system improvement that can be driven by state-level policy initiatives.

One of the questions the Commission is interested in investigating this year is – How is telecommunications technology being used to improve access to care in Alaska, and what are the barriers to enhancing its use to improve access and quality and to control costs?

### **Date, Time and Location of Session**

Friday, June 15; 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Frontier Building, Room 896, 3601 C. Street, Anchorage, AK

### **Format** – Half-day learning and discussion session:

- I. Key-note presentation by Stewart Ferguson , PhD & John Kokesh, MD (75 mins.) (*confirmed*)
  - 45 min. presentation followed by 30 min. Q&A with Commission members
  - Topics:
    - How has the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network used telehealth systems to improve access to care for federal beneficiaries, and what have been the outcomes?
    - Describe some models of large scale telehealth projects operating in other states and countries.
    - What are the barriers to improving telehealth systems and utilization in Alaska and what public policy changes could help overcome these limitations (e.g., infrastructure, reimbursement, licensure, malpractice, training, etc.)?
    - What are the next steps for enhancing the use of telehealth systems for improving access and health outcomes and for containing costs?
- II. Examples of Current Alaska Telehealth Initiatives (75 mins.)
  - Panelists will have 10 minutes each to:
    1. Briefly describe their program;
    2. Explain the future direction for the program (planned growth and sustainability);
    3. Describe the evidence that demonstrates their program is improving patient outcomes and containing health care system costs; and,
    4. Note policy barriers and other challenges experienced in implementing the program and/or constraining further development.

- **Panelists:**
  - **PAMC's eICU Program:** Dr. Javid Kamali, Providence eICU Medical Director and/or Cecilee Ruesch, Providence eICU Clinical Manager (*confirmed*)
  - **PAMC's REACH Telestroke Program:** Dr. Christie Artuso, Providence Neuroscience Services Director (*confirmed*)
  - **Alaska Federal Healthcare Partnership Home Telehealth Monitoring Program:** Samuel Johnson, Executive Director, Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership (*confirmed*)
  - **SEARHC Telebehavioral Health Program:** Melody Price-Yonts, SEARHC Behavioral Health Director (*confirmed; via t/c*)

### III. "Reactor Panel" (75 mins)

- Panelists will have 5-8 minutes each to reflect on the main points made by the other speakers, and suggest policy changes for overcoming barriers (if any).
- Panelists:
  - "Outside" Telebehavioral Health Expert: Chris Tarpley, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (*confirmed*)
  - State Health Information Technology Director: Paul Cartland (*confirmed*)
  - Rural providers:
    - Phil Hofstetter, NSHC, Nome (*confirmed*)
    - CHA/P Program – Sheila Stein, Maniilaq CHAP Director (*confirmed; via t/c*)
  - Health Organization Revenue Director: Dave Morgan, Southcentral Foundation (*confirmed*)
  - Private Insurance: Jeff Davis, Premera BC/BS President (*confirmed*)
  - Medicaid: Kim Poppe-Smart, DHSS Deputy Commissioner (*confirmed*)
  - Medical Board: Debora Stovern, Executive Administrator, Alaska Medical Board (*confirmed*)

### IV. Commission Discussion (1 hour)

- Commission members will discuss what they learned from the presentations and pre-meeting reading materials, and develop preliminary findings and recommendations.